



Public Health Administration

Cathy A. Raevsky, Director
Mark A. Lundberg, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer

202 Mira Loma Drive
Oroville, California 95965

T: 530.538.7581
F: 530.538.2164

buttecounty.net/publichealth

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 11, 2016

15-17-O

Butte County Public Health Monitors for ZIKA

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. – The Butte County Public Health Department (BCPHD) monitors existing and emerging illness to keep the residents of Butte County informed, safe and healthy. The new mosquito borne illness, Zika virus, is primarily transmitted to people by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos—the same mosquito that can transmit Dengue Fever and Chikungunya. While there is no evidence of mosquitos carrying Zika virus in California, residents are advised to take steps to avoid mosquito bites, including removing standing water and wearing insect repellent when necessary.

BCPHD is working closely with local health partners and the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District (BCMVCD) to monitor any signs of the Zika virus or *Aedes aegypti* species in Butte County. According to BCMVCD, there has been no detection of the species capable of transmission in Butte County or surrounding counties. BCPHD does not foresee immediate risk for local transmission, however, residents traveling to affected regions should take extra precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitos, especially pregnant women. There is concern that Zika virus may be transferred from a pregnant woman to her baby during pregnancy. Preliminary reports suggest that Zika virus may cause a much smaller than expected head size in newborns, a condition called microcephaly.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have issued a travel alert for people traveling to regions and certain countries where Zika virus transmission is ongoing, including Mexico, Latin America, and the Caribbean. People traveling to these and other countries should take steps to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, including:

- Use insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon and eucalyptus;
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants;
- Use air conditioning or window/door screens to keep mosquitoes outside. If you are not able to protect yourself from mosquitoes inside your home or hotel, sleep under a mosquito bed net;
- Drain small containers of water outside or near your accommodations

If you have traveled to an affected area and have symptoms related to Zika, contact your medical provider. If you are pregnant and have either traveled to an affected area or think you may have been exposed to the Zika virus, contact your obstetrician. If you have not traveled to an affected region, are not pregnant and are not symptomatic, you do not need to seek testing or medical care. For information about Zika virus symptoms, visit the CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/symptoms/index.html>

###

For further information regarding this release, contact Lisa Almaguer, BCPHD Communications Manager.
(530) 966-1686 or lalmaguer@buttecounty.net